

REMARKS

Applicants are amending Claim 1, the only independent claim in this application, to more accurately describe their claimed methods and to highlight the distinction between their claimed methods and the disclosure of WO 97/28883 ("WO '883"). Support for the amended material may be found in the Written Description in the paragraphs beginning at page 3, line 6, and at page 4, line 17.

Reconsideration of the rejection is again respectfully requested. Specifically, Applicants submit that the invention disclosed in WO '883 will not inherently perform the method of reducing inhalation of airborne respirable droplets which are produced by spraying droplets from an aerosol spray device. The reference is concerned with a method for precipitating airborne particles by contacting said particles with liquid droplets or particles to which a unipolar charge of at least $\pm 10^{-4}$ C/Kg has been imparted. The charged particles or droplets are attracted to airborne particles, such as allergens or dust, and the added weight causes the airborne particles to precipitate.

In support of her rejection on the ground that Applicants' claimed methods are inherently taught in the WO '883 reference, the Examiner makes the statement that "by removing particles of instant size from the air, the inhalation of airborne particles will be reduced implicitly". Applicants respectively take issue with this statement. The phrase "airborne particles of instant size" presumably refers to something disclosed or claimed by Applicants. There is nothing in the WO '883 reference that refers to the size of the airborne particles which are caused to precipitate. The "particle" size is, in fact, the size of the liquid droplets which, as indicated in the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 25, is in the range of from 5 to 100 μm – admittedly, the same range recited by Applicants and covered in Applicants' claim 7. It may be true that, by the practice of the invention disclosed in WO '883, the inhalation of the existing airborne particles – *i.e.*, allergens or dust – will implicitly be reduced but Applicants' invention is not a method for reducing inhalation of airborne dust and allergen particles. Rather, Applicants are reducing the

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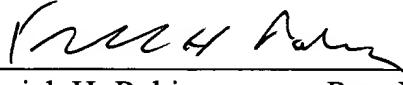
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inhalation of droplets emanating from the spray device. To make this point even more clear, Applicants are amending claims 1-4 to specify that it is the inhalation of these droplets, not particles, that are being reduced.

In view of the foregoing amendment and these remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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